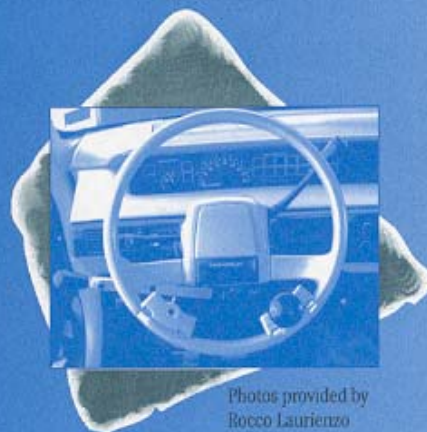


DRIVER EVALUATION PROGRAM

DEPARTMENT OF OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY
(716) 898-3225



Photos provided by
Rocco Laurienzo

SPECIAL SERVICE FOR WESTERN NEW YORK



ERIE COUNTY
MEDICAL CENTER
HEALTHCARE NETWORK

WHO SHOULD BE REFERRED?

Any individual whose ability to initiate or resume driving is in doubt, or when a physical, cognitive, or visual impairment presents a possible risk for independent driving.

DIAGNOSTIC GROUPS

Individuals referred to the program fall into one of the following categories:

- Cerebral Vascular Accident (CVA)
- Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI)
- Dementia/Alzheimer's Disease
- Multiple Sclerosis (MS)
- Spinal Cord Injury
- Amputations
- Orthopedic/Multiple Trauma
- Muscular Dystrophy (MD)
- Cerebral Palsy (CP)
- Learning Disabled/Mental Retardation

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

The ECMC Driver Evaluation Program should be utilized to determine an individual's ability to initiate or resume driving, given a physical, cognitive, or visual impairment. The evaluation provides both physicians and patients with objective, functional, and performance information regarding an individual's ability to operate an automobile safely and independently.

EVALUATION COMPONENTS

Driver evaluations are provided by specially trained and licensed occupational therapists. The evaluation includes a clinical/functional assessment and an in-vehicle road assessment. Specific evaluation components include:

- Actual driving performance using the specialized driving equipment required by the individual
- Reaction time testing
- Strength and functional endurance
- Coordination
- Cognitive skills/abilities
- Vision/visual perception

SERVICES

The driver evaluation is completed in a specially-equipped vehicle. Either an automobile or van is used to determine an individual's driving safety and potential for adaptive driving equipment needs.

ADAPTED AUTOMOBILE

Used with individuals who can independently access an automobile and who may or may not require hand or foot controls and steering device modifications.

ADAPTED VAN

Used with individuals whose abilities require a wheelchair or other specialized seating.

REQUIREMENTS FOR REFERRAL

To receive a driver evaluation, patients require:

A physician's prescription or referral for an occupational therapy driver evaluation.

A brief medical summary of the individual, outlining relevant medical information.

Most major insurances accepted.

To make an appointment or for more information, contact ECMC's Outpatient Occupational Therapy Department at (716) 898-3225.

FOCUS ON ABILITY NOT DISABILITY

ABOUT ECMC'S REHABILITATION MEDICINE DEPARTMENT

ECMC's Rehabilitation Medicine Department is the oldest and largest acute level inpatient rehabilitation unit in the area. The region's first spinal cord injury unit was opened at ECMC in 1979, and in 1982, the head trauma program was established. In addition to occupational therapy, ECMC's Rehabilitation Medicine Department also includes a comprehensive array of physiatry, physical therapy, and speech pathology.

ABOUT THE ECMC HEALTHCARE NETWORK

The Erie County Medical Center Healthcare Network is the area's leading health care provider and one of the country's most modern, functional, and efficient health care delivery systems. The ECMC Healthcare Network encompasses a growing base of off-site health centers, an advanced academic medical center with 550 inpatient beds and 156 skilled nursing home beds, and the Erie County Home, a 638-bed skilled nursing facility. The medical center serves as the regional center for trauma, burn, and rehabilitation, and is a major teaching facility for the State University of New York at Buffalo. All ECMC Healthcare Network

physicians, dentists, and pharmacists are dedicated faculty members of the University. The mission of the ECMC Healthcare Network is to provide exceptional medical care to all Western New York residents, regardless of ability to pay, and to continue in a leadership role in education and research.

E C M C

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